

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1–29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting a keratinous fiber from extrinsic damage comprising

applying to said keratinous fiber, in an amount sufficient to protect said keratinous fiber, a composition comprising xylose [[and]] or a derivative[[s]] thereof; [[and]]

wherein said xylose or a derivative thereof is present in said composition at a concentration ranging from 0.01% to 5.00% relative to the total weight of the composition,

wherein said protected keratinous fiber has a dry tensile strength of at least about 950 J/m<sup>2</sup>;

wherein said protected keratinous fiber has a wet tensile strength of at least about 275 J/m<sup>2</sup>; and

wherein said protected keratinous fiber has a alpha structure of at least about 7.5 J/g.

31–46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional sugar, said at least one additional sugar being different than said xylose [[and]] or a derivative[[s]] thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said at least one additional sugar is chosen from monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said monosaccharides are chosen from hexoses.

50. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 49, wherein said hexoses are chosen from allose, altrose, glucose, mannose, gulose ~~glucose~~, idose, galactose, talose, sorbose, psicose, fructose, and tagatose.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said at least one additional sugar is present in said composition at a concentration ranging from 0.01% to 5.00% relative to the total weight of the composition.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition is in the form of a liquid, oil, paste, stick, dispersion, emulsion, lotion, gel, or cream.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said keratinous fiber is chosen from hair, eyelashes, and eyebrows.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said extrinsic damage is caused by heating, UV radiation, or chemical treatment.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said composition protects a keratinous fiber from extrinsic damages and repairs a keratinous fiber following extrinsic damage.